AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image scanning and processing system, comprising:

a scanner ~~for generating~~configured to generate a stream of data encoding a scanned image;

a controller ~~for controlling and processing~~configured to control and process data received from the scanner; and

~~file storage means, wherein, in use, the stream of data is written to a master file saved in the file storage means, and~~

a file storage device configured to store a master file including data from the stream of data,

wherein the controller is configured to create a preview image with a lower data size than the scanned image from at least part of the data encoding the scanned image, wherein the controller is further configured to extract data encoding the preview image directly from the stream of data, and to write the extracted data to a thumbnail file in order to create the preview image.

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit ~~for displaying~~configured to display at least a portion of the preview image and ~~for displaying~~to display a detailed view of a section of the displayed preview image according to a user's selection of the section.

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein the display unit ~~provides~~ is configured to provide a selection frame with which the user makes the user's selection of the section, the selection frame being resizable and movable.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to convert the selected section of the preview image ~~is converted~~ to a different data format before being displayed.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the scanner or the controller ~~checks~~ is configured to check the scanned image for artifacts, and ~~stores~~ to store information specifying the detected artifacts with the preview image in the file storage ~~means~~device.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of scanning and processing an image, comprising:

scanning an original and thereby generating a stream of data;

encoding a scanned image;

saving the scanned image in a master file; and

creating a preview image with a lower data size than the scanned image from at least part of the data encoding the scanned image,

wherein data encoding the preview image is extracted directly from the stream of data, and written to a thumbnail file in order to create the preview image.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the preview image is a lower resolution rendition of at least part of the scanned image.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein at least part of the preview image is displayed to an operator as a survey view in a window on a display.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the part of the preview image is displayed before or during the saving to the thumbnail file.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein part of the scanned image representing a region of interest is displayed to an operator as a detailed view of the region of interest in a window on a display.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

providing a selection frame in the survey view, wherein an operator selects a region of interest by sizing and positioning the selection frame in the survey view.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the part of the scanned image representing the region of interest is converted to a different data format before being displayed.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the part of the scanned image representing the region of interest is compressed when converted to the different data format and decompressed before being displayed.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the part of the scanned image representing the region of interest is chosen to be larger than a size leading to compression artifacts.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
image-processing the stream of data before creation of the preview image.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the scanned image is checked for artifacts, and wherein information specifying the detected artifacts is provided with the preview image.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting one of a plurality of master files comprising data encoding at least one scanned image, wherein the master file is created by scanning an original and thereby generating a stream of data, encoding a scanned image, and saving the scanned image in a master file, the method comprising:

providing at least part of a thumbnail file associated with one of the master files to an archive manager, said part of the thumbnail file including data encoding a preview image

corresponding to the scanned image with a lower data size than the scanned image, whereby the archive manager can display the parts as survey previews to the user for selection,

wherein the data encoding the preview image is extracted directly from the stream of data and is written to a thumbnail file in order to create the preview image.

18. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inkjet printing device ~~for printing~~configured to print the preview image and/or the scanned image.